

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-10 /062 W

----- 076381

R 041355Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1747

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1312

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF

SUBJECT: ARAFAT IN LIBYA; IS QADHAFI MEDIATING INTRA-  
PALESTINIAN CONFLICT?

REF: BEIRUT 14376

1. ARAFAT ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI EVENING OF DEC. 3 FROM  
YUGOSLAVIA, WITH NAYEF HAWATMEH OF PDFLP AND FARUQ QADDUMI.  
HE WAS MET BY QADHAFI'S PRIVATE SECRETARY AND LOCAL PLO  
REP, WHO IS KNOWN HERE AS REP OF "PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION".

ARAFAT TOLD PRESS HE HAD COME TO "FINISH UP TALKS" WITH  
QADHAFI. BY OUR COUNT, THIS IS HIS FIFTH VISIT TO LIBYA  
IN UNDER TWO MONTHS, AND SECOND TIME HE HAS COME WITH  
HAWATMEH IN THAT PERIOD. ABU IYAD'S ARRIVAL HERE WAS  
REPORTED NOV. 30.

2. COMMENT: FREQUENCY WITH WHICH ARAFAT HAS BEEN COMING  
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TO LIBYA, AND HIS REFERENCE TO "FINISHING UP TALKS",

LEAD US TO BELIEVE SOMETHING MORE THAN COURTESY CALLS  
ARE INVOLVED. OUR GUESS IS THAT QADHAFI IS MEDIATING  
BETWEEN PALESTINIAN "LOYALISTS" AND "REVISIONISTS", AND  
THAT HE IS WORKING WITH ARAFAT TO TRY TO PREVENT FINAL  
SHOWDOWN BETWEEN TWO WHICH EMBASSY BEIRUT SEES LOOMING ON  
HORIZON (REFTEL). QADHAFI IS WELL POSITIONED TO DO THIS,  
AS HE HAS APPARENTLY MANAGED TO STAY ON GOOD TERMS WITH  
BOTH ARAFAT AND "REJECTIONISTS". PFLP-GC OFFICE HAS BEEN  
OPERATING HERE SINCE JUNE (TRIPOLI 686), AND PFLP-GC CHIEF  
JABRIL HAS BEEN HERE SEVERAL TIMES, MOST RECENTLY ON OCT. 15.  
ABU IYAD OF COURSE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE COME HERE TO LAY  
LOW AFTER FAILURE OF HIS RABAT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

IF QADHAFI IS IN FACT PLAYING ROLE OF MEDIATOR BETWEEN  
LOYALIST AND REJECTIONIST FACTIONS, WE WOULD EXPECT HIM  
TO PUSH LINE THAT GUERRILLA ATTACKS WITHIN ISRAEL BE  
STEPPED UP, AND THAT ALL PALESTINIAN RESOURCES BE DEVOTED  
TO  
THIS INSTEAD OF INTERNECINE FIGHTING.  
AND IF HE WERE SUCCESSFUL, "NIGHT OF LONG  
KNIVES" MIGHT BE DELAYED AGAIN.  
STEIN

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## Message Attributes

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